



DURRANT PAYS THE LAW'S PENALTY

Stocking Murder of Two Girls Judicially Avenged.

MAINTAINED HIS INNOCENCE TO THE LAST

Changed His Religious Faith at the Supreme Moment.

Story of Two Remarkable Crimes—Two Girls Mysteriously Disappeared—Their Bodies Discovered in a Church—Extraordinary Efforts to Save the Criminal's Life—Other Executions.

San Quentin, Cal., January 7, 1898.

When William Henry Theodore Durrant died on the gallows this morning for the murder of Blanche Lamont he gave such an exhibition of coolness and nerve as has seldom been seen under similar circumstances. Hopeful almost to the very last minute that something or someone would intervene to save him, he walked to the scaffold and made a speech, protesting his innocence as calmly and with as distinct enunciation as if he had been addressing an assemblage of friends upon some ordinary topic of the day. His face was pale, his eyes were red, but his voice was firm and he stood as solidly as a rock while he proclaimed his innocence and professed forgiveness to those who, he said, had hounded him to death.

There was no hitch of accident to mar the plans of Warden Hale in carrying out the sentence of the law. The neck was broken by the fall of five feet, and fifteen minutes later the murderer's body was cut down and placed in a coffin.

In spite of the exciting events of last night, when Durrant was besieged by newspaper reporters and picked his parents until 11:30 p. m., he rested easily during the night and shortly after 6 o'clock awoke and bade his guards good morning. Warden Hale had provided a new suit of dark material and these clothes Durrant quickly donned. He noticed the absence of collar and necktie, however, and knowing full well the reason for their omission he asked for them, explaining that a turn down collar would not interfere with the noose. Then he sat down to an excellent breakfast and ate heartily. During the early morning hours Durrant did not have much to say beyond expressing a desire that no newspaper men should be allowed to see him. This request was complied with.

Consistent to the last, Durrant died professing religion. But he died, accepting at the last moment the comforts of the Catholic Church, instead of those of the Baptist faith in which he was reared. Rev. Rader, a Protestant minister, had arranged to ascend the scaffold with Durrant, but the minister would not say that he thought Durrant innocent and the condemned man declined to accept his services unless Rader professed belief in his innocence. Then it was that the once ardent Baptist turned to the Catholic Church for consolation and called upon Father Lagan, a priest who had frequently visited him in prison, to attend him. Father Lagan responded promptly and performed the last rites of the Church. Durrant remained in close consultation with the priest and seemed to be deeply interested in the impressive ceremonies. As the hour of the execution approached the prisoner became somewhat restless. His father and mother were admitted to bid him a last farewell. The elder Durrant grasped his son by the hand and the young man then turned to comfort his mother, who cried hysterically. Durrant embraced her tenderly and, saying "The hour has come for us to part," put her gently away. The grief-stricken mother was led to a private room, where she remained until after the execution. The father, however, went to the execution room, and was escorted by two friends, saw his son meet his death.

Warden Hale did not attempt to hurry matters, but allowed all possible time for the Supreme Court at Washington to take some action. Finally when word was flashed across the continent that the Supreme Court had declined to interfere the warden ordered the execution of the sentence to be carried out. At 10:34 o'clock, Durrant, accompanied by Father Lagan, appeared at the door of the execution room. He was followed by his father, a friend, Warden Hale and the guards. The father and friend walked around the gallows to the front, while Durrant and his keepers climbed to the gallows platform. Instantly on arriving at the gallows his legs and arms were pinioned and the rope was placed about his neck. The hangman was about to adjust the black cap when Durrant announced his desire to speak. Permission was given, and the doomed murderer spoke as follows:

DURRANT'S LAST WORDS.

"I desire to say that although I am an innocent man, innocent of every

crime that has been charged against me, I bear no animosity toward those who have persecuted me, not even the press of San Francisco, which hounded me to the gallows. If any man thinks I am going to spring a sensation—I am not, except it is a sensation that I am an innocent man brought to the gallows by my persecutors. But I forgive them all. They will get their justice from the great God who is Master of us all, and there I also expect to get justice, that is the justice of an innocent man. Whether or not the perpetrators of the crime of which I am charged are discovered, it will make no difference to me, but I say this day will be a shame to the State of California. I forgive everybody who has persecuted me, an innocent man whose hands have never been stained with blood, and I go to meet my God with forgiveness for all men.

The words were delivered slowly and distinctly and without emphasis. Durrant finished quietly and had scarcely ceased when the black cap was placed over his face. At the same instant Hangman Lunt raised his hand, the trap was sprung and with a rattle Durrant's body shot through the opening. In eleven minutes and twenty-eight seconds all signs of life had vanished and the most noted criminal of the nineteenth century was officially dead.

The body was allowed to hang for fifteen minutes, when it was cut down and placed in a black coffin provided by an undertaker from San Francisco. It is not yet known what disposition of the body will be made, as Durrant's parents have been so far unable to secure accommodations in any of the local cemeteries for the body of their son. It is very probable that it will be cremated.

Durrant, Sr., went immediately to his wife, who was waiting in one of the guard rooms, and together they accompanied the body of their son to San Francisco.

The prison officials were all enthusiastic in their praise of Durrant's nerve. It had been feared by them that in spite of his apparent bravado, he would break down at the last moment and make a scene. At one time, several days ago, Durrant gave evidence of a collapse, but he managed to pull his nerves together once more and proudly declined all offers of stimulants to enable him to make a bold showing on the scaffold. He was apparently proud of his race and avowed he would "die like a Durrant."

Warden Hale, in earnest request of Warden Hale, who had been held on his body. The prisoner's medical training seemed to have imbued him with horror of the surgical treatment of corpses, and he vowed that no knife should ever touch his flesh. He also requested that the rope with which he was hanged be burned. His wishes in both these respects were observed by the warden.

HISTORY OF THE CRIME.

William Henry Theodore Durrant, who was hanged at the State prison at San Quentin to-day, gave his life in exchange for the lives of two young women, who were members of the church to which he belonged. While Durrant was convicted of the murder under the law, he was held responsible by public opinion for the murder of both Blanche Lamont and Minnie Williams, both of whom were destined to be murdered by him in the church where they worshipped together.

Blanche Lamont disappeared on August 18, 1895, and was never seen alive afterwards. She left her home in San Francisco, where she was the daughter of Mrs. C. G. Noble, on that day to go to school, and for ten days no trace of her could be found. Many members of Emanuel church assisted in the search for the missing girl, and among them was Theodore Durrant, who had often aided Miss Lamont's search.

He seemed greatly distressed on account of Miss Lamont's disappearance, and at length expressed the belief that she had joined the ranks of fallen women. This theory seemed plausible to police, and a search was made among the friends where it was believed the missing girl might be found. Durrant assisted in the inquiry, which came to naught. Ten days had passed since Miss Lamont disappeared, and her friends had almost given up hope of ever knowing her fate, when a discovery was made which led to the finding of Miss Lamont's body.

The ladies of Emanuel church were engaged in decorating the edifice preparatory to the celebration of the Easter Sunday services, when the mangled body of Minnie Williams was found, nearly naked, in the library. A number of ugly marks and some scars that had been forced down the young woman's throat told of the unequal struggle she had made to protect her honor.

Miss Williams' body was discovered in the afternoon, and late the same night the body of the murderer was obtained. From that day to this the Republican party has learned that she had been seen the evening before with Durrant, and although there was nothing else to show that he had any connection with the crime, the police decided to arrest him. Durrant's home was visited at night, but he was not there. His parents said that he had left at midnight with the signal corps of the National Guard, to which he belonged, to make some heliographing experiments on Mt. Diablo. The

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

TELLER ATTACKS THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Hopes to See It Defeated in the Election of 1900.

WILL DO ALL HE CAN TO DRAG IT DOWN

Vigorously Resents an Insult by Gold Standard Newspapers.

Allen Introduces a Resolution for Free Coinage and Direct Issue of Paper Money by the Government—Butler Wants to Elect Federal Judges by Popular Vote—Civil Service Debate Continues in the House.

Washington, Jan. 7, 1898.

The feature of the Senate session to-day was a speech delivered by Mr. Teller (Colorado) regarding press reports that the recent efforts to make it appear that Secretary Gage had tendered his resignation as a member of the Cabinet to President McKinley, were a part of a conspiracy of the silver men to disrupt the Cabinet and create dissension between the President and his advisers. Mr. Teller branded the publication as an insult to the advocates of the free coinage of silver.

At the opening of the session, the reply of the Attorney General to the Senate resolution calling upon members of the Cabinet to inform the Senate what, if any, changes should be made in the administration of the civil service law, was read.

The Attorney General recommended that attorneys employed by the Department of Justice and Deputy United States Marshals ought to be exempted from the operation of the law.

Mr. Allen (Nebraska) offered a resolution declaring that the United States should fix a time for its termination, and that it should run over to next week. The interest in the discussion does not seem to be waning. The debate to-day was without marked incident.

Mr. Gillette (Republican), of Massachusetts, opened the debate in support of the bill. He maintained that the arguments of Mr. Grosvenor and Mr. Landis against the law were both in reality strong arguments of the spoils system. He declared that the scope of the executive order of May 28, 1896, was not understood when the St. Louis platform was adopted.

Mr. Gillette commented wittily on the spectacle of the white-haired veteran, General Grosvenor, leading the young hussars of the party in the battle of the spoils, and said it recalled to his mind the words of Macaulay placed in the mouth of Henry of Navarre at the battle of Ivry:

"Press where you see my white plume shine,
Midst the ranks of war,
And be your crutcheon to-day the head
Of Grosvenor."

Mr. Faris (Republican), of Indiana, spoke in opposition to the law. He declared that the Republican party was not responsible for the civil service law.

Mr. Cummings (Democrat), of New York, announced himself an implacable foe of the whole system of civil service reform. "The system is doomed," said he, "and one of the factors in its destruction is Tammany Hall."

Mr. Burton (Republican), of Ohio, followed in defense of the civil service law.

Vandiver (Democrat), of Missouri, in course of some remarks in opposition to the law, referred to President Cleveland as "this fat-witted excellency."

Mr. Mahoney (Republican), of New York, said if he were not allowed to vote for a modification of the law he was one of those who would vote for its repeal.

Mr. Kerr (Republican), of Ohio, favored the modification of the law.

Mr. Bartholdi (Republican), of Missouri, took occasion to defend Carl Schurz from what he termed the slanders heaped upon that gentleman by Grosvenor.

The other speakers were Messrs. Driggs and Bradley (Democrats), of New York, who defended Tammany Hall, and Mr. Fitzgerald (Democrat), of Massachusetts.

At 4:55 the House adjourned.

FIRE BREAKS OUT AGAIN.

Steamer Lambert's Point Having Trouble with Her Cargo of Cotton.

St. Johns, N. F., Jan. 7.—Fire broke out again in the cotton cargo of the British steamer Lambert's Point, Captain Humphreys, from Norfolk, December 19th, for Liverpool, that arrived here December 26th with fire in her hold. On December 31st the first was practically extinguished, and she was getting ready to proceed to sea. A portion of the cotton stored in the alley ways will be landed, as the flames are thought to be confined there.

The mind made easy and the body comfortable by wearing the garments Rudolph & Wallace make.

was no possibility of an international agreement.

Mr. Chandler, of New Hampshire, declared that the Senator from Colorado (Teller) was doing much to prevent the successful fruition of the efforts to bring about international bimetallism.

"I should like to bring about international bimetallism," said Mr. Teller, "and I think I have done as much to bring it about as any man in this chamber, if I except the Senator who sits in front of me (Allison). When he returned from Europe, however, without success I felt that it was practically useless to proceed further in that direction."

Incidentally Mr. Teller drifted into a discussion of the foreign relations of the United States. He maintained that the money power held the country so firmly within its grasp that the Government was unable to take such action as he desired upon questions as the people desired should be taken. He hoped that the time would soon come when we could say to a fifth rate power like Spain: "Take your hands off that beautiful island—an island which you have nearly depopulated—and say it, too, under the force of the opinion of the money power."

"I do not believe," said Mr. Teller, "that war would result if we should put out our hands to support Cuba. It would be a humane thing for us to do a reasonable and just act. The French came to us at a time when we were struggling as are the Cubans, and it is doubtful whether we have achieved our independence without their aid."

Reverting to the financial question, Mr. Teller said: "I attack the Republican party because it is the party of the gold standard. I hope to see it go down in 1900 and I pledge you that I will do everything in my power to drag it down."

At the conclusion of Mr. Teller's speech Mr. Turner (Washington) called upon the Immigration bill, saying that as he was about to leave the city, he desired to submit some remarks upon the pending measure. He strongly opposed the bill.

Mr. Butler (North Carolina) presented a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution, providing for the election of the Federal Judiciary. The resolution went to the table to permit Mr. Butler to make a speech on it.

A message from the President informed the Senate that the sale of the Kansas Pacific railroad had been postponed to February 16th, and also submitted the Agricultural Department reports on experiment stations.

At 2:45 the Senate went into executive session, and at 2:10 p. m. adjourned until Monday.

BOARD OF FISHERIES NOW PROPOSED

Bill to That Effect Introduced in the House of Delegates.

JURISDICTION OVER THE OYSTER INDUSTRY

Committee on Reduction of State Expenses Strikes a Snag.

All Want to Exempt Salaries of Their Own Constituents—Newborne Will Hold His Seat—Appropriation Bill Will Be Reported Early—Vigorous Treatment Proposed for Vagrants—Customs Surrenders and Is Released on Bail.

(Special Dispatch to The Virginian.)

Richmond, Va., Jan. 7, 1898.

A bill was offered in the House of Delegates by Mr. Montague to-day to incorporate the Chesapeake and Hampton Roads Railway Company, with George Booker, John L. Watson, R. G. Blackford, Joseph T. Lawless, R. C. Marshall, R. M. Lett, and L. H. Selator as incorporators. The capital stock is to be not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$300,000. Authority is given to construct and operate a railway from Newport News to Old Point with branch lines.

The House Committee on Elections and Privileges will make its report to-morrow in the case of Cole vs. Newborne from Norfolk county. The report will recommend that Mr. Newborne be declared entitled to his seat, and it is quite certain that the recommendation will be carried out.

Senator George B. Kezzell, of Rockingham, is in favor of making some changes in the existing election laws. He would prefer the emblem ballot, but would compromise on an amendment requiring a copy of the official ballot to be posted in full view of the public outside of each polling place before the voting begins. There is no stauncher Democrat than Mr. Kezzell in the Legislature, and he thinks the best interests of the party will be served by making some changes in the law.

The Committee on Reduction of State Expenses has not gotten down to work as yet. One of the greatest difficulties before this committee is that in cutting down expenses each member is anxious to save his constituents.

An effort will be made to get the appropriation bill before the House earlier than usual this session. It is generally reported during the last week of the session, and has to be considered with too much haste. Already it is quite evident that there will be a fight on many appropriations the bill will make, and members as a rule are anxious that the measure be reported by the first of February.

Delegate Featherston, of Campbell, introduced the following resolution, which was referred:

"Whereas, it is widely believed that the current expenses of the State are excessive at present than its income; therefore, be it

"Resolved, That the standing committee of this House, known as the Committee on Retrenchment and Economy, be and is hereby requested and instructed to make at once report of progress made in performance of its special functions."

The following resolution was presented in the Senate by Mr. Parkside, and in the House by Mr. Withrow:

"Resolved by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, that a joint committee composed of three members of the House and two from the Senate, none of whom shall be chosen from a constituency having a public institution, be appointed to inquire into the earliest practicable moment, a list of officials who draw salary or emoluments, directly or indirectly, from the State of Virginia, with the salaries, emoluments or perquisites paid to each, with the hours of labor performed by each and as that end are empowered to call on any officer of the State for a report or reports as to his own salary or fees and for any information he may have as to others which reports shall be verified by affidavit.

"And the committee shall call upon the executive head of every institution in the State which receives any appropriation from the State for a list of every person drawing a salary therein, together with the amount of the salary paid same and the duties of the office, and the number of hours per day actually employed, stating what perquisites, if any, are attached, and if said report is not received from said executive head within one week after the same is demanded, it shall be reported back to the House and Senate for such action as may be necessary.

"And said committee shall be empowered to enforce the attendance of witnesses and the production of books and documents as may be deemed necessary, and with their report shall return a bill embodying such equalizations and reductions as from the facts they may deem just and fair, due regard being had to the work required, the hours of labor, the increased purchasing power of money, the general depression and especially of the agricultural interests from which the taxes mainly come, and the danger which overshadows the treasury and the State's credit.

"It being recognized that the only way to carry out pledges of retrenchment and reform to the tax payers is a embody them in a general bill of such equality and fairness that no class or classes of office holders shall flight the reform by claiming inviolable discrimination, but that all will bow with patriotism to this necessary movement in the direction of the overburdened tax payers' relief.

"And to have the committee's bill free from even the suspicion of favoritism or undue influence, the committee, after arriving at the facts, shall prepare the bill in executive session, and give no intimation of its contents until report be made, accompanied by all papers and reports upon which said bill is based."

Mr. Sands, from the Committee on Courts, in the Senate, reported favorably Mr. Morris' bill amending the title of the net passed at the last session prohibiting gambling in Virginia on horse races run beyond the borders of this State. The amendment corrects the error in the law discovered in the case of Lucy vs. Palmer.

Mr. Sands offered a bill in the Senate, which was placed on the calendar, providing for the workings of vagrants in the county of Henrico. The act provides that it shall be made the duty of the special police of Henrico upon report that a certain person is believed to be a vagrant, to cause at once the arrest of such person and take him before the nearest justice of the peace. If it appears the person arrested is a vagrant he shall be committed to jail for a term of thirty days. When five or more vagrants have been arrested the Board of Supervisors shall commit them with ball and chain upon one or more of the public roads.

A bill was introduced by Senator LeCombe to create a Board of Fisheries, define its duties and fix its salaries. The act authorizes the Governor to appoint five persons who shall constitute a Board of Fisheries. Two of the members shall be taken from the Tidewater section of the State and shall be experts, versed in the oyster and fish industry. The remaining three members shall be taken from different sections of the State. The Governor shall designate one of the experts as chairman of the board and the other expert as secretary.

The bill provides that the board shall establish an office or offices in Tidewater and another in the mountains, to see that all laws relating to the oyster and fish industry are faithfully observed and enforced. Authority is given to the commission to fill all vacancies occurring in the office of oyster inspector; to abolish any such offices, or to create new offices of inspector where none now exist and to remove any inspector for cause.

The act is a very long one and provides in detail as to the duties of the commission, which is given practically exclusive jurisdiction over the oyster and fish industries and over the Virginia oyster navy, with authority to elect the captains of the vessels. To meet the expenses of the commission there shall be annually appropriated \$4,000 from the oyster fund, or so much as may be necessary to carry the act into effect.

Col. John Cussans came into the city to-day and surrendered himself to the police. He had heard there was a warrant for his arrest on the charge of being about to fight a duel with Col. James M. Stubbs. The Colonel was bailed in the sum of \$1,000 for his appearance in the Police Court.

A delegation of citizens from Norfolk called on the Governor this morning to advocate the claims of Dr. Field for Henric, while a delegation from Portsmouth appeared on behalf of Dr. Hope.

The anti-Trading Stamp bill was discussed for four hours to-night before the House Committee on Banks, Currency and Commerce. A vote was not taken.

ANOTHER REPUBLICAN SLATE SMASHED

Democrats Combine With Bolting Members in Maryland.

CAUCUS CANDIDATE FOR SPEAKER—BEATEN

Regular Candidates for Minor Offices Elected Without Opposition.

House Adjourns Until Monday When Governor Lowndes Will Send in His Message—Balloting for Senator Will Begin a Week Later—Senatorial Situation in Ohio Remains Practically Unchanged—Hanna Adopts Secretive Tactics.

Annapolis, Md., Jan. 7, 1898.

The Republican members of the lower house of the Maryland Legislature, after more than two months of deals and promises, failed to agree upon a Speaker for the House of Delegates, and to-day twelve of their number, assisted by forty-one Democrats, elected Mr. Louis Schaefer, Republican, of Baltimore city, to the position of presiding officer.

The Democratic members of the House, realizing that there was not a possibility of electing their candidate for the Speakership, Mr. Lloyd Wilkinson, of Worcester county, listened to the overtures of the bolters, and to-day delivered the goods as agreed upon at a conference held late yesterday.

Preliminary to the balloting Mr. Ashley M. Gould, of Montgomery county, the majority nominee, withdrew and presented the name of Oscar L. Quigg, of Prince Georges county, an Independent Speaker pro tem. The vote desisted from the ranks of the regulars, and Mr. Schaefer received the more vote than was expected, and the result being one absentee—a Democrat—Quigg was not accounted for. There was no further contest and the caucus nominees for the other offices of the House were elected viva voce.

Both branches adjourned after the organization of the House until Tuesday evening, January 11th, at 8 o'clock. Governor Lowndes announced that he would present his biennial message at that session. Balloting for a successor to Senator Arthur P. Gorman will begin in each House a week from that date.

OHIO SITUATION UNCHANGED.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 7.—The Senatorial situation is practically unchanged. Senator Hanna's managers were apparently more cheerful to-day, but the cause for it was not apparent. They have adopted quite a different policy in the canvass now that the balloting is at the beginning of the contest here, and are now following the tactics of Mr. Kurtz, leader of the opposition, whose strong suit has been to conceal every thing possible from the Hanna people. It is not so easy now to secure inside information from the Hanna managers, and this policy is generally approved by the Senator's supporters.

The efforts of the steering committee to whip the Democratic members of the Legislature into line to vote for a Republican for Senator have not been as successful as they expected. As a result it is stated authoritatively tonight that it will be a caucus of the Democratic members next Monday night.

JAPAN SUPPORTS ENGLAND.

Strong Fleet Placed at the Disposal of the British Commander in China.

London, Jan. 8.—A special dispatch from Shanghai says that a Japanese fleet of three battleships, ten first class cruisers and numerous smaller vessels, has received orders practically placing it at the disposal of Sir Alexander Buller, British commander in chief of the China station, this step being taken in case Russia persists in ignoring the joint interests of England and Japan.

The Berlin correspondent of the Daily News says he understands that the peculiar form of the lease of Kiao-Chow was the outcome of prolonged negotiations between Germany and Russia, ending in an agreement and the mediation of Russia between China and Germany. The correspondent says: "This happy conclusion of Baron Von Tuelow's (German foreign minister) negotiations is the cause of universal satisfaction here."

CHINA LEANS TOWARD ENGLAND.

London, Jan. 8.—The Cabinet will meet to-day, presumably to decide about the Chinese loan.

The Standard, in an important editorial, apparently inspired, says: "The present it seems suffice to say that China has made earnest overtures to Great Britain's good offices, and that Lord Salisbury is giving the closest attention to the matter in its present aspects."

There is said to be a woman in Newmarket, Ill., who is a confirmed man-hater.

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The bill provides that the board shall establish an office or offices in Tidewater and another in the mountains, to see that all laws relating to the oyster and fish industry are faithfully observed and enforced. Authority is given to the commission to fill all vacancies occurring in the office of oyster inspector; to abolish any such offices, or to create new offices of inspector where none now exist and to remove any inspector for cause.

The act is a very long one and provides in detail as to the duties of the commission, which is given practically exclusive jurisdiction over the oyster and fish industries and over the Virginia oyster navy, with authority to elect the captains of the vessels. To meet the expenses of the commission there shall be annually appropriated \$4,000 from the oyster fund, or so much as may be necessary to carry the act into effect.

Col. John Cussans came into the city to-day and surrendered himself to the police. He had heard there was a warrant for his arrest on the charge of being about to fight a duel with Col. James M. Stubbs. The Colonel was bailed in the sum of \$1,000 for his appearance in the Police Court.

A delegation of citizens from Norfolk called on the Governor this morning to advocate the claims of Dr. Field for Henric, while a delegation from Portsmouth appeared on behalf of Dr. Hope.

The anti-Trading Stamp bill was discussed for four hours to-night before the House Committee on Banks, Currency and Commerce. A vote was not taken.